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Boulders.

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FIRST REPORT

BY THE

COMMITTEE ON BOULDERS

APPOINTED BY

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH,

IN APRIL 1871.

*From the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh,
Vol. VII., 1871-72.*

(READ APRIL 1872.)

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED BY NEILL AND COMPANY.

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BOULDER COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE ROYAL
SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH, ON 21ST APRIL 1872.

SIR ROBERT CHRISTISON, *President of the Society.*

REV. THOMAS BROWN.

PROFESSOR GEIKIE (*Edinburgh.*)

— DR ARTHUR MITCHELL.

PROFESSOR NICOL (*Aberdeen.*)

THOMAS STEVENSON, C.E.

PROFESSOR WYVILLE THOMPSON (*Edinburgh.*)

CAPTAIN T. P. WHITE, R. E.

PROFESSOR YOUNG (*Glasgow.*)

DAVID MILNE HOME (*to be Convener.*)

FIRST REPORT.

In April 1871, a paper was read in this Society proposing a scheme for the conservation of boulder or erratic blocks in Scotland, in so far as they were remarkable for size or other features of interest. The Council of the Society approved of the scheme, appointed a committee to carry it out, and agreed to aid in meeting the expense of any circulars which might be necessary for conducting the inquiries.

The objects of the committee were twofold. They were first to ascertain the districts in Scotland where any remarkable boulders were situated; and, second, to select those which might be deemed worthy of preservation, with the view of requesting landed proprietors and tenants of farms not to destroy them.

The labours of the committee have as yet been directed only to the first of these objects.

In order to procure information, they drew out a set of printed queries, applicable to boulders apparently above 50 tons in weight, in order to ascertain the parishes in which they were situated, and the names of the proprietor and tenant on whose lands they were; and also to learn other features, such as the nature of the rocks composing the boulders, their form, and the existence of striations upon them. Inquiry was also made whether the boulders had any traditional names or popular legend connected with them, or exhibited any artificial markings.

The committee thought that, with a view to the conservation of the boulders, the greater the interest which could be shown to attach to them, the more chance there would be of inducing proprietors and tenants to preserve such as the committee might select for preservation.

Besides queries about boulders, there was one query directed to ascertain the occurrence of *kaimes* or *eskars*, i.e., long banks of sand

and gravel, as some persons imagined that the agents which transported boulders might have had some relation with, or might throw some light on those which were concerned in the formation of those deposits.

Circulars containing queries, a copy of the minute of Council approving of the scheme, and appointing a committee, and an abstract of the paper read in the Society in April 1871, explaining the scheme, were transmitted to the ministers of all rural parishes in Scotland.

About 700 circulars were issued. After the lapse of six months about 100 answers were received.

The committee, on considering these, were of opinion, that in making their queries applicable only to boulders exceeding 50 tons in weight, they had probably erred, by excluding many boulders of interest, and to this circumstance they attributed the small number of answers sent.

They therefore resolved to issue another circular containing the same queries as before, to cover boulders exceeding 20 tons in weight. This circular was addressed to parochial schoolmasters, as the committee feared that they might be considered troublesome, if they made a second application to ministers of parishes.

This second circular brought to the committee a large amount of information, and they desire now to express their cordial thanks to both classes of reporters for responding so readily.

When the committee was appointed, an expectation was expressed that they should, from time to time, lay before the Society some account of their proceedings, and of the progress made by them.

In now proceeding to the performance of this duty, the committee will confine themselves to a statement of facts communicated, and avoid at present attempting to draw conclusions from these facts.

1. In order to show the situations of the boulders reported on, the committee have drawn up a list,* according to counties, giving the names of the parishes where boulders occur, adding shortly any particulars regarding them, such as size, nature of the rock composing the boulder, direction of the longer axis, striations, popular names, and legend, if any.

* This list is in the Appendix.

They have also, on a general map of Scotland, indicated by a red cross the exact position of the most remarkable boulders.

From this table and map, it will be seen that *Aberdeenshire* possesses the largest number of boulders, and also the boulders of greatest magnitude.

Ross and Cromarty stand next, then *Perth, Argyll, Inverness, Kirkcudbright*, and *Forfar*.

2. In regard to *size*, the largest boulder reported is one of granite, in the parish of Pitlochry, called "Clach Mhòr" (big stone), being about eight yards square, and estimated about 800 tons.

There are two boulders between 500 and 600 tons weight, one in Ross, the other in The Lewis.

There are three boulders between 200 and 500 tons, seven between 100 and 200 tons, twenty between 50 and 100 tons.

3. With regard to the *nature of the rocks* composing the boulders, the largest reported are of granite, though there is one known to the convener of the committee, still larger, of conglomerate, in Doune parish. The most numerous are composed of compact greenstone; but these are generally of small size. The next most numerous class are of grey granite. There are also many of gneiss, grey-wacke, and conglomerate.

4. The boulders reported generally *differ* in regard to the nature of the rocks composing them, from that of the rocks of the district in which they are situated; and, in many of the reports, reference is made to the district from which the boulder is supposed to have come.

Thus, in those parts of Perthshire, Forfarshire, and Kincardineshire where the old red sandstone formation prevails, and over which multitudes of granite, gneiss, and conglomerate boulders are lying, most of the reporters have no hesitation in pointing out that the parent rock is in the Grampian range, lying to the north or west. So also in Wigtonshire, where the greywacke formation prevails, and on which many boulders of grey granite are lying, the general opinion is that they came from the granite hills of Kirkcudbrightshire.

But where a boulder happens to be of a species of rock the same as that of the rocks of the neighbourhood, it is more difficult to recognise it as a true erratic. Hence, in the Lewis, where there are huge single blocks of gneiss, which is also the prevailing rock of

the country, the reporters say that they cannot tell whether these blocks are erratics or not.

5. The boulders mentioned in the reports are of various *shapes*. Some approach a cube, well rounded of course on the corners and sides. That is the shape mostly possessed by granite boulders. Others again are of an oblong shape, and this is particularly the case with whinstone and greywacke boulders. The difference in this respect is probably mainly due to a difference in the natural structure of the parent rocks.

A point of some importance occurs in regard to oblong-shaped boulders.

The direction of their *longer axis*, in the great majority of cases, is stated to coincide with the direction in which they have come from the parent rock, when the situation of that rock has been ascertained. Thus, in Auchterarder parish, there is a boulder 10 feet long by 6 broad, the longer axis of which points north-west. In Auchtergaven parish there is a granite boulder 10 feet long by 8 broad, the longer axis of which points due north. In Menmuir parish, Forfarshire, there are two large granite boulders, the one 14 by 9, and the other 13 by 9, the longer axis of which points north-west. In each of these cases the reporters seem satisfied of the situation of the parent rock, and in each case the longer axis of the boulder points towards it.

It appears, also, that where there are natural *striations or ruts* on the boulders, these almost always run in a direction parallel with the longer axis; and that when there are striæ crossing these, the number of such oblique striæ are comparatively few.

6. Notice in the reports is taken of the remarkable *positions* occupied by some boulders.

Thus, the Ardentinny report refers to a large boulder called "*Clachan Udalain*," or the nicely balanced stone,* so-called, as the reporter states, because "it stands on the very edge of a precipice, and must have been gently deposited there." In the same parish there is another boulder, called "*The Giant's Putting Stone*. It is pear shaped, and rests on its small end. It looks," says the reporter, "as if a push would roll it over."

In Menmuir parish (Forfarshire), two boulders are reported, each

* Another translator represents this word to mean "*of the swivel*."

from 30 to 40 tons in weight, and perched on or near the top of a hill, having come there, as the reporter thinks, from a parent rock 15 miles distant, with several valleys intervening.

Cases of the same kind are reported from islands.

On Iona, near the top of the highest hill in the island, which is about 250 feet above the sea, there is a great boulder of granite. There is no granite in the island. The nearest place where that rock occurs is in the Ross of Mull, with an arm of the sea intervening.

In the Island of Eday, in Orkney, there is a conglomerate boulder, called the "*Giant's Stone*," about 8 tons in weight, near the top of a hill—the only one in the island—about 300 feet high. There is no conglomerate rock in Eday. But conglomerate rock occurs in the Island of Stronsay, situated to the south-east, a few miles distant.

7. The report from the parish of Benholm (Forfarshire), by the Rev. Mr Myres, gives information and suggestions to the committee of considerable interest. On the sea coast of that parish, two sets of boulders are described. One set are supposed to have come from the Grampian range many miles to the north-west, and consist of granite and gneiss rocks. But another set, also consisting of primitive rocks, are believed to be derived from a different source altogether, viz., from the great beds of conglomerate rock, which forms a band crossing the whole of Scotland from Stonehaven and Bervie, in a south-west direction, to Dumbarton and Rothsay. Some of the rounded masses in the conglomerate are stated to be several feet in diameter, and a few present appearances of striation; a fact which, if established, would seem to prove that, at a very early period indeed, ice action had existed, and had formed boulders just as it did at a later period.

This report from Benholm parish was read lately at a meeting of the Geological Society of Edinburgh, and was illustrated by drawings and specimens which afforded strong evidence of the correctness of these views.

8. With regard to *kaims* or long embankments of gravel or sand, there are twenty-three parishes reported to the committee as containing them.

They appear to be most numerous in Aberdeenshire, Forfarshire, and in the east of Perthshire. In Kemnay parish there is a kaim

said to be $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, running east and west. In Airlie parish there is a kaim 2 miles long, also running east and west. In Fettercairn parish, Kincardineshire, and also in Tarbet parish, Ross-shire, there are several kaims parallel to, and not far distant from, one another.

In two cases the reporters, who seem to have visited Switzerland, whilst mentioning kaims in their parishes, express an opinion that they are evidently lateral and terminal moraines.

In several cases, oddly enough, these kaims exist at much the same level above the sea, viz., between 700 and 800 feet, which happens also to be the height of similar deposits in Berwickshire and Mid-Lothian.

The committee wish it to be understood, that in the present report, they confine themselves simply to a statement of the information received. They do not think it would be wise as yet to attempt to draw theoretical conclusions. Almost every day they are receiving more answers to their circulars; and they think that the wider the basis for considering the important geological questions connected with the transport of boulders and the formation of kaims, there will be the more probability of reaching the truth.

One object which the committee have in view in explaining the nature of the information communicated to them, is to show and to acknowledge the deep debt of gratitude which this society lies under to the gentlemen who have responded to the circulars of the committee.

But whilst the information supplied is undoubtedly valuable, the committee cannot but feel the truth of what many of the reporters themselves modestly and properly state, that they are so little acquainted with geology or mineralogy, that they may not have correctly understood the queries, or they may not have made their observations in the way necessary to answer the queries. Moreover, the committee itself may not in all cases have rightly understood the answers given.

Having regard to these considerations, the committee would very much desire that the boulders reported should be examined by experienced geologists, who should at the same time make a survey of the district, in order to see whether it

presents any special features bearing on the nature of the agency by which the boulders were transported. The information in the reports received by the committee would greatly facilitate such an inspection, as they indicate not only the parish and the farm where the boulder is situated, but generally record other features of interest.

The committee entertain a hope, that were this wish on their part made known, some geologists, who may be either resident in Scotland or who may purpose to visit Scotland during the course of the ensuing summer or autumn, might offer their services in the way, and for the purpose now suggested. In that case, the committee would willingly lend the reports which they have received, on condition that the results of the inspection were made known to the committee.

The committee will place in the library of this Society, the list of boulders before referred to, showing the parishes in each county in which the boulders and kaims are situated, so that any person may see where these parishes are, and be able to judge whether it would be convenient for him to visit these.

Were this list published, and generally circulated, good would result in another way. As it would show all the parishes from which reports of remarkable boulders and kaims had come, some persons might be able to discover parishes from which reports had been omitted to be sent, and if these were pointed out to the committee, they would make the requisite inquiry.

II. The committee proceed next to notice points of *archæological* interest connected with boulders.

1. The committee were surprised with the large number of individual boulders possessing names by which they were known in the district.

The names may be classified under several heads:—*First*, there are names having reference to the agency by which the boulders were supposed to have come into the district. *Second*, there are names indicative of the use to which boulders were put. *Third*, there are names making the boulders commemorative of certain events.

Many of the boulders, besides having a name, have also a *legend*, which explains and illustrates the name.

The *Giant's Stone*, *Fingal's Putting Stone*, the *Witches' Stone*, the *Carlin Stone*, *Heathens*, *Hell Stones*, the *Deil's Stone*, the *Deil's Putting Stone*, the *Deil's Mither's Stone*,—these are among the names, almost all in the Gaelic language, which apparently were given to account for the way in which particular boulders came into the district. *

To show that this was the origin and object of the names, a few of the legends, as stated in the reports, may be given. They indicate, no doubt, a very deplorable state of ignorance and credulity; but they indicate also that in many cases our forefathers had satisfied themselves that the boulders had been transported into the district. Their perplexity was how to account for their transport. Not knowing anything of glaciers or icebergs, they had to resort to supernatural agency for an explanation. A few examples may be given.

Reference has already been made to a large conglomerate boulder near the top of a hill, in the Island of Eday, one of the Orkneys. It goes under the name of "*Giant's Stone*." The legend for it is, that it was flung by a giant from the Island of Stronsay. Now, as already stated, there is no conglomerate rock which could have supplied the boulder in Eday Island, but there is in Stromsa.

So also in the Island of Sanday, one of the Orkneys, there is a granite or gneiss boulder; the legend about which is, that it was thrown from the Shetland Islands by a giantess, who had been jilted by a Westray man. She intended to throw it into Westray, but she made a bad shot, and it fell into the Island of Sanday. There is no rock which could have produced the boulder in Sanday, but there is abundance of it in the Shetlands.

About $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of St Andrew's in Fife, there is a large conglomerate boulder, and the legend about it is, that when the "*Four knockit steeple*" in that town was being built, a giant who lived at Drumcarro Crag, a hill about 5 miles to the north-west of St Andrews, was indignant, and resolved to demolish the edifice. He, therefore, got the largest stone he could find, and borrowing his mother's apron, he made a sling of it, and threw it at St Andrews.

* The Rev. Mr Joass of Golspie refers to a boulder in Sutherland, called "*Clach Mhic Mhios*," or stone of the Manthold son, believed to have been thrown from a hill two miles off by Baby Fingalian.

But the stone being too heavy, the apron broke, and the stone did not quite reach its destination, and there it has lain ever since. There is no conglomerate rock where the boulder lies, but there is at or near Drumcarro Crags.

The Witches' Stone, which is on the estate of Pitferran, near Dunfermline, has this legend: A witch who lived among the hills to the west, wishing to confer a favour on the Pitferran family, resolved to give them a cheese-press, the heaviest she could find. She selected a large block of basalt of the proper shape, and carried it in her apron, which, however, broke under the load before she reached the family residence; and there it has lain ever since. There is no rock of that kind near Dunfermline, but there is to the westward.

In the parish of Carnwath there are one or two spots where there are or have been groups or collections of whinstone boulders, between the river Clyde and a hill of whinstone, known by the name of the *Yelpin Craigs*. The distance between the river and this hill is three or four miles. These heaps of boulders have from time immemorial gone by the name of *Hellstones*, insomuch that places near them are called *Hellstones Loan*, *Hellstones Gate*, &c. The legend is, that Michael Scott and a great band of witches, wishing to dam back the Clyde, gathered stones at the *Yelpin Craigs*, and were bringing them towards the Clyde, when one of the young witches, groaning beneath her load, cried out, "Oh Lord, but I am tired." As soon as she uttered the sacred name, the spell broke, the stones fell down, and have remained there ever since.*

There are many legends founded on the agency of the devil, and on his hatred of churches and clergy. Thus near the old church of Invergowrie, now in ruins, there is a large whinstone boulder, called the *Paddock Stone*. The legend about it is, that the devil, going about in Fife, descried the church shortly after it was begun to be built, and wishing to stop the work, threw a large stone at it across the Frith of Tay. There is no whinstone rock at or near Invergowrie, but there is abundance of it immediately opposite in Fife.

In the parish of Kemnay (Aberdeenshire), there is a boulder of grey granite, called the *Devil's Stone*, estimated to weigh about 250 tons, which lies not far from the old kirk. There is no rock of that nature in Kemnay parish, but there is at Bennachie, a hill

* This legend is given more fully in "Scenery of Scotland," p. 314, by Professor Geikie.

about seven or eight miles to the westward. The legend explaining how this boulder came from Bennachie forms the subject of a ballad,* a few verses of which may be given.

- “ It was the feast o’ Sanct Barnabas,
 I’ the merry month o’ June,
 When the woods are a’ i’ their green livery,
 And the wild birds a’ in tune ;
- “ And the priest o’ Kemnay has gaen tō the kirk,
 And prayed an earnest prayer,
 That Satan might for aye be bund
 To his dark and byrnan’d lair.
- “ And aye the haly organ rang,
 And the sounds rose higher, higher,
 Till they reached the Fiend on Bennachie,
 And he bit his nails for ire.
- “ And he lookit east, and he lookit west,
 And he lookit aboon, beneath ;
 But nocht could he see save the baul’ grey rocks
 That glower’d out through the heath.
- “ He lifted aloft a ponderous rock,
 And hurl’d it through the air ;
 ‘ Twere pity ye sud want reward
 For sae devout a prayer ! ’
- “ The miller o’ Kemnay cries to his knave,
 ‘ Lift up the back sluice, loon !
 For a cloud comes o’er frae Bennachie
 Eneuch the mill to droon.’
- “ The boatman hurries his boat ashore,
 And fears he’ll be o’er late ;
 Gif yon black cloud come doon in rain,
 It’s fit to raise a spate.
- “ But the ponderous rock came on and on,
 Well aimed for Kemnay Kirk ;
 And cross’d it field, or cross’d it flood,
 Its shadow gar’d a’ grow mirk.
- “ But the fervent prayers o’ the haly priest,
 And the power o’ the Sanct Anne,
 They turn’d the murderous rock aside,
 And foil’d the foul Fiend’s plan.

* From “ Flights of Fancy and Lays of Bon Accord.” By William Cadenhead
 Aberdeen. Edinburgh : Oliver and Boyd, 1853.

“ And it lichted doon frae the darken’d lift,
 Like the greedy Erne bird,—
 And there it stands i’ the auld kirk-lands,
 Half-buried in the yird.”

These legends, in explanation of the transport of Scotch boulders, are of the same nature as the legend which professes to explain how the Blue Stones of Stonehenge came to Salisbury Plain in England. Jeffrey of Monmouth, who was the first author to write a description of Stonehenge, says that certain of the stones were brought by Merlin and a band of giants from Ireland. Mr Fergusson, in his book on Ancient Stone Monuments, recently published, says that some geological friends of his have told him, that these blue stones of Stonehenge are a species of trap, which is not known in England, but is well known in Ireland; and therefore Mr Fergusson supposes that they probably were brought from Ireland in ships. It seems quite as likely that these blue stones were boulders, and were brought from Ireland by natural agency, and deposited on Salisbury Plain in that way. There are strong proofs to show that there was an agency of some kind which swept over Ireland from the westward, and brought boulders across what is now the Irish Channel to the south-west districts of England.

In these legends we see the efforts of the people in those early times to account, in the best way they could, for the transport of boulders into their districts. It is evident that they had investigated the subject, and had made considerable approaches to the truth. Finding that many of these great blocks differed in composition from all the rocks of the district where the blocks lay, and inferring that their rounded shapes were probably due to friction, they inferred that they must have come into the district from some distant quarter; and this inference was confirmed by discovering that in certain other districts there was rock of the same description as the blocks. But how blocks exceeding 100 tons weight could have been brought many miles, and over a tract of country uneven and broken in its surface, their knowledge of nature’s laws did not enable them to explain. The only agency which they could think of was superhuman and supernatural; and hence the invention of such legends as assumed the agency of Merlin, giants, Michael Scott, witches, and the devil.

2. The second class of names by which particular boulders are known, have reference to the *uses* to which these stones were put.

In remote periods in the history of Scotland, when there were no maps, roads, or even names of parishes, it was important to have some other means of indicating spots or districts where people required to congregate for special purposes.

One of the boulders reported to the Committee (in the Island of Harris), still goes by the name of "*Clachan Treudach*," or the Gathering Stone.

What were the special purposes for which our early forefathers gathered together is of course not easily discovered. But the ancient names of the boulders seem to throw light on the subject. (1.) Such names as "*Clach-sleuchdaidh*," or Stones of Worship (in the parish of Kirkmichael); "*Clach an t-Tobairt*," or Stone of Sacrifice; "*Clach na Greine*," Stone of the Sun; "*Clach na h'Annait*," Stone of Victory, (a Scandinavian deity); and "*Clach mhòr a Che*," Great Stone of Che, (another deity), seem very plainly to indicate that these boulders were used as trysting-places for *worship*; and they were all the more suitable if they were looked upon with superstitious awe, on account of their supposed connection with spiritual agency. On two of the boulders reported to the Committee, there are artificial circular markings, other examples of which are very numerous throughout Scotland; and though archæologists are not yet agreed as to the meaning of these marks, one theory is, that they were symbols of a religious character. It is well known that these great stones were in some way or other, hindrances to the reception and diffusion of Christianity in most of the countries of Western Europe; for between the years 500 and 800 there are numbers of decrees and edicts requiring these stones to be destroyed, as being objects of superstition. There are some archæologists who go so far as to maintain that the word "*Kirk*" is actually synonymous with the word "*Circle*," meaning the circle of stones where Celtic worship was performed.

(2.) Another use to which these boulders were applied was *Seppulture*. There is in Berwickshire, a boulder known by the name of the "*Pech or Pict's Stone*," round which human bones in very large quantities were found a few years ago; and similar discoveries have been made at boulders in many other districts, especially where they formed circles.

If these great boulders were used as places of worship, it was natural that they should also be used for sepulture, on account of the supposed sanctity of the place. Indeed, the fact of a place having been used for sepulture, creates of itself a presumption that it was used also for worship.

(3.) Another important purpose for which the boulders were used, was for the *trial of offenders* and the issuing of *judicial sentences*. Thus, in Little Dnnkeld parish, there is a large boulder called "*Clack a mhoid*,"* or Stone of the place of Justice, where the baron of the district could try *offenders*, with right to hang or drown those convicted. In Ayrshire there is another large boulder called the *Stone of Judgment*, for the barony of Killochan. Several large rocking stones have been reported. In ancient times, when very rude tests of guilt or innocence were employed, the rocking stone was used in the trial of persons accused of crimes.

"It moves obsequious to the gentlest touch,
Of him whose breast is pure. But to the traitor,
Though even a giant's prowess nerved him,
It stands as fixed as Snowdon."

(4.) There are boulders which are known to have been used as *trysting places* for military gatherings; a large boulder on Cul-loden Moor is one example. It was on a whinstone boulder called *The Bore Stone*, that Robert Bruce planted his standard before the Battle of Bannockburn. A sandstone boulder on the Borough Muir, near Edinburgh, was the gathering point for the army collected by James IV. before the Battle of Flodden. Both of these stones are in existence. The Bannockburn stone is protected by an iron grating. The other stone is also preserved, being fixed on a wall near Morningside parish church, having on it a brass plate, bearing an inscription, given by the late Sir John Forbes.

(5.) Some boulders are said to have been used as *trysting places* for the *contracting of engagements*, such as matrimonial contracts, and others less important. There is a boulder in the parish of Coldstream (Berwickshire), called the *Grey Stone* from its colour, at which within the last hundred years marriages took place. The bride and bridegroom stood on tiptoe on each side of the stone and joined hands over the top, whilst the friends of each party sur-

* New Stat. Acc., vol. x. p. 1007.

rounded the stone to witness the engagement. The *Stone of Odin*, in the Orkneys, at which marriages were celebrated, was held in peculiar veneration; for in one case where a man was prosecuted for deserting his wife, it was stated to be an aggravation of his offence, that they had been married at the Stone of Odin.

3. A third class of names given to boulders had relation to them as *commemorative of important events*.

Thus there is in Badenoch the "*Clach an Charra*," or Stone of Vengeance, so called because a profligate and tyrannical feudal baron was killed by his own people near it.*

There is in Lewis the "*Clach D'hois*," or Stone of D'hois, a boulder of gneiss, weighing about 120 tons. It is called after a person named D'hois, who slew a giant near the boulder, and who also himself died immediately after, from the wounds received in the conflict.†

4. Some boulders were used to mark the boundaries of estates, parishes, and counties, and are still in many parts of Scotland recognised as affording evidence on that subject.

In Ross-shire, the boundary between the districts of Urray and Contin is marked by the boulder called "*Clachloundron*."

A great boulder is said to indicate the spot where the three counties of Dumfries, Ayr, and Lanark meet.

The line of boundary between England and Scotland was in the eastern borders originally indicated by boulders, several of which still remain.

5. Some of the boulders have curious popular predictions connected with them.

Thus, near Invergowrie, on the north side of the Frith of Tay, there were in the days of Thomas the Rhymer two boulders entirely surrounded by the water, of which the seer sang—

“ When Gows of Gowrie come to land
The day of judgment's near at hand.”

These two boulders, called the Gows (probably because always frequented by sea-gulls), are now no longer surrounded by water.

* Proceedings Soc. of Scotch Antiquaries, vol. vi. 328.

† This Boulder and its legend reported to the committee by Captain Thomas, R.N.

But it is not they which have come to land, the land has come to them.

In the parish of Crieff a boulder of whinstone is reported, with a vein of white quartz through and partially round it, in consequence of which the stone has from time immemorial been known as the *Belted Stane*. The prediction about it is, that the white belt will gradually increase in length till it envelopes the stone; and that whenever the two ends meet, a great battle will be fought, on which occasion a king will be seen mounting his horse at the stone,—

“Twixt the Gartmore Gap and the *Belted Stane*
The nobles bluid shall run like a stream.”

Geologists, however, are of opinion that there is not much chance of the quartz vein extending.

Perhaps some persons may think that the time of the Royal Society should not be taken up by any allusion to these absurd popular legends. There are, however, good reasons for referring to them. In the *first* place, they are evidence of the extraordinary ignorance and superstition which prevailed in former times in our own land, and even at no very distant date. In the *second* place, the archæological and even historical associations with which many of the boulders are invested, may induce many proprietors to take an interest in them and save them from destruction, if the committee think them worthy of preservation.

There is even yet among our fellow-countrymen a considerable amount of interest felt in these boulders, and particularly such as have traditionary names and legends; and it is to this feeling that several are indebted for their preservation. Professor Geikie at the last meeting of the British Association told this anecdote of the Ayrshire boulder, known as the Killochan Stone of Judgment. An enterprising tenant, a stranger to the district, finding this stone much in his way, was preparing to blow it up with gunpowder. His intention becoming known, some of the old residents went to the laird's factor and asked whether he knew what was intended. On his stating that he did not, he was entreated to prevent the stone from being destroyed. The proprietor was communicated with, and the new tenant was interdicted from meddling

with the stone. Shortly afterwards this inscription was put on the stone,—“*The Baron's Stone of Killochan.*” *

It is a boulder of blue whinstone, on which stands the market cross of Inverness. For some reason or other, it is preserved as the Palladium of the town, ever since the battle of Harlaw in the year 1411. It is called “*Clach na cudden*,” or “Stone of the tubs,” from the circumstance that the people carrying water from the river used long ago to rest their tubs on it. It was till lately in the middle of the street; but having ceased to be of use, when water was brought into the town by pipes, it was removed to the side of the street opposite to the town hall, with the old cross of the town and the Scottish arms resting on it. “*Clach na cudden boys*,” is a *nom de guerre* for Invernessians; and “*All our friends round clach na cudden*,” is a toast given in many a distant land.

In the parish of Rattray, there is a remarkable boulder of micaeous schist, weighing about 25 tons, of which some account was given a short time ago in this Society. It bears a number of artificial markings of a very ancient date. The tenant of the farm on which it is situated proposed to blow it up. “Some of the inhabitants having heard of this, went to the minister of the parish, and begged him to take steps to save the old stone of Glenballoch. The proprietor being on the Continent, the rev. gentleman applied to the factor, and through his good offices saved the stone. This gentleman being still under anxiety about it, lately requested this committee to communicate with the proprietor, Colonel Clark Rattray, with the view of obtaining from him a promise that the stone should be preserved. Colonel Clark Rattray was accordingly written to by the convener of the committee, and he at once acceded to the request.

There is on the shore at Prestonpans, on the south side of the Firth of Forth, a large basaltic boulder, which has long been known under the name of “*Johnny Moat*.” The Convener wishing to see this boulder, he went out from Edinburgh a few weeks ago by rail to Tranent Station, and walked towards the shore in search of it. Between the railway station and Prestonpans he met a boy, whom he stopped, and telling him that he had come to see

* An account of this boulder was published in Macmillan's Magazine for March 1868, by Professor Geikie.

the boulder called "Johnny Moat," he asked the way. The boy pointed it out at once. Three or four other persons in succession, two of them women, had to be asked the same question before the spot was reached. Every one knew "*Johnny Moat*." The last person accosted was a fisherman, and he volunteered to be guide. He seemed somewhat suspicious of the stranger's intentions; for after reaching the stone, he remained beside him till he saw it was only to measure its dimensions and make a sketch of it, that he had come. From what was observed during this visit, it was evident that every inhabitant of Prestonpans, not only knew of the boulder, but took a personal interest in it, and would sternly resist any attempt to destroy it.

It is satisfactory to find this popular feeling still prevailing to some extent. But the feeling is not of itself sufficient to prevent the wholesale destruction which is going on in many parts of Scotland. Thus, the minister of Bendochy reports to the committee, that "on the rising ground behind his manse, there was a circle of large stones, boulders, standing on their ends (Druidical); but some years ago they were removed. The place is yet called '*The Nine Stanes*.'"

There was formerly a rocking stone in Aberdeenshire, estimated at about 50 tons weight; but it has now been converted into field dykes.

Numberless cases of the same kind can be specified.

It is therefore most necessary to take steps to preserve what remain of these megalithic relics; and it is especially gratifying to the committee to be able to state, that the movement towards this object, made by this Society, has met with general approval.

The British Association, at its last meeting, so highly approved of the scheme, that it appointed a committee of some of its most influential geologists to carry out a similar scheme for England and Ireland.

In the last number of the "Geological Magazine," there is a laudatory notice of the object and operations of the committee; and the readiness with which all parties applied to in Scotland have responded to the circulars of the Committee, proves how much they also approve, to say nothing of express commendations contained in individual reports. Even in Switzerland notice has been taken

of our Scottish movement, and in very complimentary terms; for a few weeks ago, a pamphlet by Professor Favre of Geneva was received by the convener, alluding to our Society's movement in this matter, and anticipating important results from it.

DAVID MILNE HOME,
Convener of Committee.

LIST OF BOULDERS REPORTED TO ROYAL SOCIETY,
ARRANGED BY COUNTIES AND PARISHES.

ABERDEEN.

Aberdeen (Town).—In excavating for foundation of house in Union Street, boulder of black sienite, $6 \times 5 \times 4$ feet found. No rock like it *in situ* nearer than Huntly or Ballater, about 80 miles to N.W. or W. Under surface of boulder, striated. The direction of striæ coincides with the longer axis of boulder, viz., about east and west. Preserved, and set up in Court of Marischall College. (Reporter—Professor Nicol.)

Ballater.—On top of Morven, 3000 feet above sea, several granite boulders, unlike rock of hill, and apparently from mountains to west. (Jamieson, "Geol. Soc. Jour.," xxi. p. 165.)

Belhelvie.—Gneiss boulder, about 8 feet diameter, called the "Caple Stone," near parochial school. Rocks *in situ*; near it are granite. (Reporter—Alex. Cruickshanks, Aberdeen.)

Sienite boulder, in a wall, *King Street Road*, about $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ feet. The face covered with striæ parallel to longer axis.

Cairney Granite Quarry, 3 miles N.W. of Aberdeen, and about 400 feet above sea. When boulder clay removed, surface of rock found to be smoothed and grooved in a direction E.N.E. and W.S.W. (true.) (Reporter—Alex. Cruickshanks, Aberdeen.)

Bourtié.—1. Four Greenstone boulders, supposed to be Druidical; what is called "The Altar Stone," $16 \times 6 \times 5$ feet, weighs about 18 tons. 2. Boulder, about 20 tons. Longer axis E. and W. Called "Bell Stane," the church bell having once hung from a post erected in it. 3. Whinstone boulder, about 20 tons, on Barra Hill, called "Wallace's Putting Stane," 24 feet in circumference. Legend, that thrown from Ben-nachie Hill, distant about nine miles to west. 4. Whinstone boulder, called "Piper's Stone." Origin of name given. 5. Whinstone boulder, called "Maiden Stane." Tradition accounting for name. 6. Several Druidical circles described. (Reporters—Rev. Dr Bisset, and Mr Jamieson of Ellon.)

Braemar.—At head of Glen Sluggan, several large erratics. These stand exactly on watershed or summit level. Near shooting-lodge there, a cluster of four or five immense angular granite boulders. They touch one another, and may be fragments of one enormous mass. The adjacent rock is quartz. These blocks situated at end of a long low ridge or mound, which extends from south extremity of Ben Avon Hills, and which strewn thickly over with great granite blocks. The mound composed of a mixed debris of earth and stones, and is apparently a moraine. The adjoining mountain of "Cairn a Drochid" is composed of quartz and granite. On top of it are large granite boulders, many of which situated on quartz rock. (Reporter—Mr Jamieson, Ellon, in letter to convener.)

Chapel Garioch.—Boulder, $19 \times 15\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ feet, weighing about 250 tons above ground. Height above sea 280 feet. Rests on drift. Longer axis E. and W. Legend, that thrown from Bennachie Hill to north-west. The rock of boulder differs from rocks adjoining. Kaims abound in parish. (Reporter—Rev. G. W. Sprott.)

Cruden.—In Boddam Dean, a granite boulder called "The Hanging Stone," measuring 37 feet in circumference and 27 feet over it, resting on several small blocks of granite. Supposed to be Druidical. Half a mile east there is another of 20 tons. (Buchan's *Peterhead*, published in 1819, and James Mitchell, Boddam.) Huge granite boulder, called "The Gray Stone of Ardendraught," broken up in 1777 to build walls of Parish Church. It was the stone on which "Hallow" fires* used to be lighted. (Jamieson, "Geol. Soc. Jour.," xiv. p. 525.)

At Menie Coast Guard Station, granite boulder, 54 feet in circumference and 7 feet above ground; also a greenstone

* "Hallow" fires were lighted on 31st October, and were called "Saimh-theine." The "Beil-theine" fires were lighted on 1st May. These practices, formerly general in the Highlands of Scotland, were probably connected with the worship of the sun, whose departure in autumn, and return in spring, were signified by these rites. The Rev. Mr Pratt published an account of Buchan in the year 1858, and states (page 21), "Hallow fires are still kindled on the eve of All Saints, by the inhabitants of Buchan—from sixty to eighty fires being frequently seen from one point." (*Old Stat. Aect. of Scotland*, vol. xi. p. 621, and vol. xii. p. 458.)

boulder, 78 feet in circumference and 6 feet above ground. (Jamieson, "Geol. Soc. Jour.," xiv. p. 513.)

Near the "Bullers of Buchan," there stands "The Hare or Cleft Stone," which marks the boundary between the parishes of Cruden and Peterhead. Granite 9×8 feet, 160 feet above sea. (Pratt's "Buchan," 1858, page 47, and James Mitchell, Boddam.)

In this parish, and to north, numerous mounds and ridges of gravel, called at one place "Hills of Fife," at another, "Kippit Hills." The generic name of these mounds and ridges in this part of Scotland, is Celtic word "Druim" or "Drum." They are composed sometimes of sand, more frequently of gravel. The gravel consists of fragments of rock, generally from westward. They are always well rounded, by the friction they have undergone. They sometimes reach a size of 2 feet in diameter. The pebbles are chiefly gneiss.

On top of some of the knolls and ridges there are large boulders. There is one, near Menie, being a coarse crystalline rock, with a greenish tint, 8×5 feet. Another boulder of greenstone lies near it. Very frequently a stratum of red clay lies over the gravel ridges, encircling the base of boulders, indicating that after the gravelly ridges had been formed, and the boulders deposited, muddy sediment had been deposited in deep water. (Jamieson, "Geol. Soc. Journ.")

The following additional information sent by Mr James Mitchell, Boddam:—

No. 1 boulder, in a ravine at Bullers of Buchan, granite, $14 \times 8 \times 5$ feet. About 15 feet above sea.

No. 2 boulder, on confines of Cruden and Peterhead. Granite, $18 \times 12 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ feet (above ground), 290 feet above sea.

No. 3, half a mile to E. of No. 2, a granite boulder, $13 \times 9 \times 5$ feet, at a height of 260 feet above sea.

Along the south side of Peterhead Bay, and as far as Buchan Ness, the shore is strewn with blocks of granite, gneiss, trap, and sandstone; many of them belonging to rocks not found nearer than 20 or 30 miles.

A belt of gravel and calcareous sand forms a semicircular arc, with a radius of about 3 miles from the coast, passing

through Crudens and Slains. The most conspicuous hillock in the line is a narrow Kaim in Slains parish, called the *Kipet Hill*,—the abode of fairies and elf bulls.

Compact groups of boulders form lines generally in a N.E. and S.W. direction. But a large number have been sown broadcast.

Culsalmond (Garioch).—Boulder of blue gneiss, $6\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, known as the Newton Stone, containing Ogham and other very antique inscriptions. (Professor Nicol in letter to Convener.)

Ellon.—At junction of Ythan and Ebrie, sienitic greenstone boulder, $22 \times 9\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ feet, resting on gneiss. Near same place, another still larger. All these boulders have come from W. or W.N.W. (Jamieson, in letter to Convener.)

Glass (5 or 6 miles west of Huntly).—Five blocks called "*Clachan Duibh*" (Black Stones), on Tod Hill. Girth of each about 50 feet, and height from 10 to 12 feet. Being of same rock as hill, not certain whether brought from a distance. Other boulders on hill apparently different from adjoining rocks. Height above sea about 1000 feet. (Reporter—J. F. Macdonald, parochial schoolmaster.)

Kemnay.—Boulder, $38 \times 30 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ feet, about 300 feet above sea; longer axis, E. and W. Boulder, $35 \times 30 \times 10$ feet, about 325 feet above sea; longer axis N. and S. Boulder, $25 \times 23 \times 8$ feet, about 325 feet above sea; longer axis, E. and W. Boulder, $28 \times 25 \times 8$ feet, about 325 feet above sea; longer axis N. and S. Boulder, $30 \times 28 \times 10$ feet, about 360 feet above sea; longer axis, N. and S. Boulder, $33 \times 27 \times 6$ feet, about 360 feet above sea; longer axis, N. and S. Boulder, $21 \times 20 \times 3$ feet. All these boulders are blue gneiss, whilst rocks adjoining are a coarse grey granite. On Quarry Hill, situated to north, 600 feet above sea, the rocks show striations indicating movement from west. Kaimes in valley parallel with valley running N.E. and S.W. for two or three miles. Legend, about devil throwing boulders at church from Bennachie Hill, situated to N.W. about eight miles. See ballad in Report. (Reporter—Rev. George Peter, M.A., parish minister.)

Logie Coldstone.—This parish thirty miles N.W. of Aberdeen. Surrounded at N.W. by amphitheatre of hills, of which

Morven 2850 feet high. It contains numerous mounds of gravel and sand, in layers, showing action of water. They have the form of "kaims." Though there are no boulders, there are pebbles up to a *cwt.* or more, imbedded in water-worn gravel and fine sand. The pebbles are of same rock as adjoining hills—gneiss, granite, and hornblende. Two singularly shaped mounds, one 60 feet high, the other composed entirely of sand. They resemble the terminal moraines seen in the Grindelwald and other parts of Switzerland. Some years ago a number of boulders (from 3 to 6 tons in weight) were destroyed at a place situated to the north of this. They were of a soft, bluish granite, differing from any granite rock within a distance of nine or ten miles. One of these boulders might weigh 20 tons. This place had all the appearance of an ancient lake. The boulders may have been brought to it by same agency as that now seen on the Märjelin See, near Aletsch Glacier. (Reporter—J. G. Michie, school-house, Coldstone, Tarland.)

New Deer.—A great number of boulders, from 1 *cwt.* to several tons, lie in a sort of line for more than a mile S.E. from farm of Green of Savoch, as far, at least, as the hill of Coldwells and Toddlehills, in parish of Ellon. Elsewhere they are mostly on surface. Locally called "Blue Heathens." On Whitestone Hill, Ellon, and on Dudwick Hill, chalk flints are exceedingly abundant. (Reporter—James Moir, Savoch, by Ellon.)

In this parish formerly there was a rocking-stone, called "The Muckle Stone of Auchmaliddie." On the Hill of Culsh, formerly a Druidical circle. About seventy years ago the stones were carried away to aid in building a manse. Farm where situated still called, "The Standing Stones of Culsh." (Rev. J. Pratt's Account of Buchan, 1858.)

Towie.—Stone of unhewn granite, standing about 7 feet above ground, on north side of river Don, near bridge. Supposed to be Druidical ("New Statistical Account" of parish).

ARGYLL.

Appin.—Granite boulder $20 \times 18 \times 11$ feet, about 290 tons. Differs from adjoining rocks. Longer axis N.E. Striated. Apparently has come from head of valley, which to N. or N.E. There is also a line of boulders;—rocks striated in direction of glen. (Reporters—James M'Dougall and Sir James Alexander, who sends a sketch.)

Ardentinny.—1. Boulder, called "Pulag"* (Big Round Stone), about 30 tons. In critical position on edge of cliff. 2. Boulder, called "Giant's Putting Stone," pear-shaped, and rests on small end. 3. Boulder, called "Clachan Udalain" (nicely-balanced stone), larger. (Reporter—Rev. Robert Craig.)

Duncansburgh (near Kilmallie).—Granite boulder, $7 \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ feet, called "Trysting Stone." Tradition. There are larger boulders nearer Ben Nevis. (Reporter—Patrick Gordon, min., Q. S. Duncansburgh, Fort-William.)

Dunoon (Kirn).—Trap boulder, $21 \times 14 \times 7$ feet, about 164 tons. The adjoining rocks are mica schist and clay slate; striated. Photograph sent. (Reporter—Rev. James Hay, minister of Kirn.)

Glencoe.—Trap boulder, about 90 feet in girth and about 10 feet high. It is nearly round, and lies on an extensive flat, so that very conspicuous from a distance. (Reporter—Captain White, R.E.)

Inishail (North of Inverary).—Granite boulder about 8 feet above ground, called "Rob Roy's Putting Stone," about 1 mile from Taynuilt Inn on Oban road, about 60 feet above sea. A mountain of same rock about 1 mile distant. Longer axis, E. and W. Due west from above about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, another boulder on a ridge on side of Loch Etive, in Muckairn parish. Several large boulders on road between Dalmally and Tyndrum; also on road between Tyndrum and Black Mount, about 4 or 5 miles from Tyndrum. A fine boulder on Corryghoil farm (Mr Campbell) between Inishail and Dalmally. (Re-

* Another translator states that "*Pulag*" in Gaelic means a "dome"

porter—Rev. Robert M. Macfarlane, minister of Glenorchy and Inishail).

Inverchaolain.—Gneiss boulder, $10\frac{1}{2} \times 7 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ feet, about 30 tons. Called “Craig nan Cailleach” (Old Wife’s Rock). Differs from rocks of district. At head of Loch Striven, many boulders, same as rocks. (Reporter—John R. Thompson, schoolmaster, Inellan.)

Iona (Island).—Granite boulder, $24 \times 18 \times 6$ feet, 190 tons. Longer axis N.W. There are a great many others, chiefly on E.S.E. side of island, opposite to Ross of Mull, from which boulder supposed to have come. On other hand, Duke of Argyll is said to consider that the granite of the boulder is not the same variety as that of Ross. There are several boulders oddly placed near top of highest hill on N.W. side. (Reporter—Allan M’Donald, parish schoolmaster.)

Kilbrandon (Easdale by Oban).—On Lord Breadalbane’s estate, grey granite boulders from 21 to 28 feet in girth, and standing from 3 to 4 feet above ground. Longer axis generally N.W. Ruts or grooves on tops and sides of some, bearing N.W. These boulders sometimes single, sometimes in groups, sometimes piled on one another. Occur at all levels from shore up to hill tops. No granite *in situ* nearer than Mull, which is 15 or 20 miles distant to N.W. (magn.) (Reporter—Alexander M’Millan, schoolmaster, Kilbrandon.)

Kilmallie.—Boulder, $12 \times 10 \times 10$ feet, about 100 tons. There is another, said to be larger, in the distant moors; also quartz boulder, about 9 feet square, supposed to have come from Glenfinnan, about 15 miles to N.W. by W. (Reporters—Rev. Arch. Clerk, and C. Livingston, schoolmaster.)

Kilmore and Kilbride (near Oban).—Granite boulder, 12 feet long; diameter of shortest axis, 5 feet; longer axis, E. and W. A few feet above sea mark. Adjacent rocks conglomerate. Another stone, about 200 yards distant, called “Dog Stone,” of which photograph sent. It is a conglomerate. (Reporter—C. M’Dongall, Dunollie, Oban).

Lismore (Island of).—Boulders of granite, red and grey, lie on the limestone rocks of the island. An old sea terrace described, as encircling the island, on one part of which a cave, from the

crevices of which shells picked by Reporter (Alexander Carmichael, Esq., of South Uist, Lochmaddy, who refers also to the Rev. Mr Macgrigor, minister of Lismore).

Saddell (Kintyre).—Several small granite boulders, though there are no granite rocks in Kintyre. A good many whinstone standing stones. (Reporter—Rev. John G. Levach, Manse of Saddell.)

South of Campbelton, many granite boulders, like Arran granite, one near Macharioch, $4 \times 5 \times 2$ feet. (Reporter—Professor Nicol, Aberdeen.)

At Southend, a boulder of coarse grey granite, about 18 feet in circumference, and weighing more than 3 tons, now broken up.

Another granite boulder, about 12 feet in circumference.

Two boulders of sienite, each 2 or 3 tons, about 200 feet above sea.

No granite rocks in neighbourhood. Rocks chiefly limestone and red sandstone. (Reporter—D. Montgomerie, Southend parish school.)

AYR.

Coylton.—Granite boulder, $11 \times 7\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ feet, about 30 tons.

Longer axis N. and S. There are four more boulders, about 4, 8, and 12 tons. They form a line running N. and S. Legend, that King Coil dined on large boulder. (Reporter—Rev. James Glasgow.)

Dailly.—Granite boulder about 36 tons on Killochan Estate, called "The Baron's Stone." About 100 feet above sea. Lies on Silurian rocks. Apparently derived from granite hills situated S.S.E., near Loch Doon, about 13 miles distant. Boulder proposed to be blown up by tenant of farm. But old inhabitants interposed, and an inscription put on it by proprietor, Sir John Cathcart, in these terms, "The Baron's Stone of Killochan." Granite boulders of various sizes, on hill slopes, south of river Girvan. One on Maxwelton farm 800 feet above sea, contains 240 cubic feet. Another, 16 feet long, on top of Barony Hill above Lannielane, mostly buried under turf. Level mark on it by Ork. surveyors of 1047 feet above sea.

Doone Loch.—Two miles south of,—a granite boulder, about $25 \times 20 \times 12$ feet, called “Kirk Stane.” (Seen by Convener.)

Girvan.—Thousands of granite boulders for miles along shore near Turnberry Point, and some whinstones. Rocks *in situ* sandstone. (Reporter—Superintendent of Turnberry Lighthouse works.)

Along coast 4 miles south, in a ravine, two boulders of altered Greywacke. Largest, 17×13 feet, and weighs 180 tons. Other weighs about 100 tons. Have probably come from hills to S. or S.E.

Maybole.—Granite boulder, flat and oblong, on slope of hill above river Doon, on Auchindrane, at height of 230 feet, known as Wallace’s Stone, from tradition, that a rude cross carved on it represents the sword of that hero. (These cases from Dailly, Girvan, and Maybole, communicated by Professor Geikie.)

BANFFSHIRE.

Banff.—In district between Banff and Peterhead, beds of glacial clay, of a dark blue colour, very similar to beds in Caithness, and probably drifted from Caithness. Near Peterhead, many boulders of granite and trap. One of these, $4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2} \times 1$ feet, a fine grained tough trap, of a greenish colour, not known *in situ* in Aberdeenshire, but occurs in Caithness. (Jamieson, “Geol. Soc. Jour.,” xxii. p. 272.)

Boyndie.—Hypersthene boulders along shore, and found for some miles running S.W. Supposed to have come from rock to S.E., called “Boyndie Heathens.” (Reporter—James Hunter, Academy, Banff.)

Fordyce.—A line of boulders can be traced running through parishes of Ordiquhill, Marnock, Grange, Rothiemay, and Cairney, in a direction S. and N. The boulders are a blue whinstone. In Ordiquhill parish, boulders, so close as to almost touch. They are called “Heathens.” 500 feet above sea. (Reporter—Parish minister.)

CAITHNESS.

Dunnet.—Conglomerate boulder of small size, apparently from “Maiden Pap” Hill, thirty miles to south. Several large

boulders in parishes of Olrich and Canuesby. (Reporter—Robt. Campbell, parish schoolmaster.)

Thurso.—Near Castletown, large granite boulder, which supposed to have come from Sutherland.* Between Weydale and Stonegun, several large conglomerate boulders.

Wick.—Three large boulders, differing from adjoining rocks, weighing from 20 to 60 tons. One is a conglomerate, apparently from mountains twenty miles to south.† (Reporters—John Cleghorn and J. Anderson.)

Granite boulder, 12 feet long, in drift, striated. Fragments of lias, oolite, and chalk flints, in same drift. Striations of rocks and boulders in Caithness indicate a general movement from N.W., i.e., from sea.

DUMFRIES.

Kirkconnell.—Granite boulder, about 9 feet diameter, 20 to 30 tons; 700 feet above sea, called “Deil’s Stone.” Differs from adjoining rocks. Granite rocks in Spango Water, about three miles to north. (Reporter—R. L. Jack (Geolog. Survey).)

Tynron.—Three whinstone boulders, each weighing from 20 to 30 tons; also several conglomerate boulders. All have apparently come from N.W. (Reporter—James Shaw, schoolmaster, Tynron, Thornhill.)

Wamphray.—Large whinstone boulder. King Charles II. halted with his army and breakfasted here. (Reporter—Parish minister.)

EDINBURGH.

Arthur Seat.—On west side of, boulders of limestone, supposed to have come from west. Rocks at height of 400 feet above sea, smoothed and striated in direction N.W.

Between Arthur Seat and Musselburgh, boulders smoothed and striated. Striæ run from N.W. and W.N.W. (Roy. Soc. of Ed. Proceedings, vol. ii. p. 96.)

* Rev. Mr Joass, of Golspie, states that granite occurs at a less remote locality.

† Rev. Mr Joass states that conglomerate rock occurs to the westward at a less distance.

- Pentland Hills*.—1. Mica-slate boulder of 8 or 10 tons. Supposed by Mr Maclaren to have come from Grampians, 50 miles to N., or from Cantyre, 80 miles to W., about 1400 feet above sea. 2. Greenstone boulder, 12 or 14 tons. Nearest greenstone rock *in situ*, 500 or 600 feet lower in level to N.W. 3. Sandstone boulder, about 8 tons, differing from adjacent rocks. (The above mentioned in Maclaren's "Fife and Lothians," p. 300.) 4. Greenstone boulder, about 10 tons, near Dreghorn. (Fleming's "Lithology of Edinburgh," p. 82.)
- West Calder*.—Whinstone boulder, $8 \times 7 \times 7$ feet, about 28 tons. Adjoining rocks are sandstone. (Reporter—S. B. Landells, teacher.)

ELGIN.

- Dallas*.—Numbers of small granite boulders found here, which supposed to have come from Ross-shire.
- Duffus*.—On Roseile Estate, conglomerate boulder called, "Hare, or Witch's Stone," $21 \times 14 \times 4$ feet, longer axis N.W. Farm named "Keam," from being situated on a sandy ridge.
- Elgin*.—1. Conglomerate boulder on Bogton farm, 4 miles south of Elgin, $15 \times 10 \times 8$ feet, about 80 tons. Longer axis is E.N.E., called "Carlin's Stone." Also a smaller one, called the "Young Carlin," to N.W. about half a mile. 2. Conglomerate boulder, $4 \times 4 \times 3$ feet, about 3 tons. 3. Gneiss boulder, $13 \times 8 \times 6$ feet, about 46 tons, called "Chapel Stone." Situated west of Pluscardine Chapel. 4. Sienite boulder, $12 \times 8 \times 3$ feet, about 13 tons. 5. Sienite boulder, $8 \times 6 \times 2$ feet, about 7 tons. The rocks *in situ* are all Old Red Sandstone. On Carden Hill, rocks smoothed and striated;—the direction of striæ N.W. (Reporter—John Martin, South Guildry Street, Elgin.)
- Forres*.—Conglomerate boulder, $9\frac{1}{2} \times 8 \times 8$ feet, about 44 tons, called "Doupping Stone." (Reporter—John Martin.)
- Llanbryde, St Andrews*.—Gneiss boulder, $15 \times 9 \times 7$ feet, about 70 tons, in bed of old Spynie Loch, called "Grey Stone;" longer axis is N.N.E. and S.S.W. (Reporter—John Martin.)
- New Spynie*.—Four conglomerate boulders, lying on Old Red Sandstone rocks. (Reporter—John Martin.)

Roths.—Six hornblende boulders, lying on gneiss rocks; dimensions and positions given. (Reporter—John Martin.)

FIFE.

Balmerino.—Mica schist (?) boulder, $12 \times 9 \times 8$ feet; destroyed some time ago. (Reporter—James Powrie, Esq., Reswallie, Forfar.)

Craik.—Granite boulder, $10 \times 8 \times 6$ feet, called "Blue Stone o' Balcomie," close to sea margin at East Neuk. Also trap boulder, $12 \times 8 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ feet. (Reporter—Captain White, R.E.)

Dunfermline.—Whinstone boulder, $17 \times 15 \times 6$ feet, about 114 tons, called "Witch Stone." Legend. (Reporter—Robert Bell, Pitconochie.)

Leslie.—Kaim of sand and gravel near village, 100 to 300 feet wide, and 20 feet high, cut through by a brook. (Reporter—John Sang, C.E., Kirkcaldy.)

Newburgh.—On shore, near Flisk point, boulder of sienitic gneiss, about 15 tons. Legend is, that a giant who lived in Perthshire hills flung it at Flisk church. (Dr Fleming, "Lithology of Edinburgh," p. 83.)

West Lomond.—Hill about 1450 feet above sea, boulder of red sandstone and porphyry lying on carboniferous limestone. (John Sang, C.E., Kirkcaldy.)

FORFAR.

Airlie.—A remarkable kaim running two miles eastward from Airlie Castle. (Reporter—Daniel Taylor, schoolmaster.)

Barry.—Granite, sienite, and gneiss boulders and pebbles, on shore, and also on raised beaches, 11 and 45 feet respectively above sea level. (Reporter—James Proctor.)

Benholm.—Huge granite boulder, called "Stone of Benholm," now destroyed. Boulders on sea shore, of granite and gneiss, many of which are supposed to have come out of the conglomerate rocks, which occur here *in situ*. One boulder $18 \times 12 \times 3$ feet, another $12 \times 6 \times 4$ feet. "Stone of Benholm," stood on apex of a Trap knoll. The Trap knoll presents a surface of rock, which has apparently been ground down and smoothed by some agent passing over it from west; the exact line of move-

ment seems 10° to 20° south of west (magn.) In this Trap knoll there are agate pebbles, which have been mostly all flattened on west side, and been left steep and rough on east sides. Small hills which range in a direction north and south are scalloped, as if some powerful agent passing over them from westward had scooped out the softer parts. Hills ranging east and west, form a ridge with a tolerably level surface. Gourdon Hill and Craig Davie show marks of great abrasion. (Reporter—Rev. Mr Smart Myers, parish minister.)

Carmyllie.—Granite or gneiss boulder, from 7 to 10 tons. Differs from rocks near it. It lies on a height. Called “The Cold Stone of the Crofts.” Supposed to have come from hills thirty miles to north. (Reporter—Rev. George Anderson.)

Cortachy.—Whinstone (?) boulder, $13 \times 10 \times 8$ feet, about 78 tons. Longer axis E. and W. Supposed to have come from a trap dyke situated to N.W. Legend, that thrown from N.W. (Reporter—Rev. Geo. Gordon Milne.)

Mr Powrie of Reswallie reports a mica schist boulder as situated in South Esk river, about 60 or 80 yards below bridge, and within Earl of Airlie’s park. Parent rock supposed to be 2 or 3 miles to N.W. This boulder probably same as that mentioned by Rev. Mr Milne.

Farnell.—Boulder $9\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ feet, about 12 tons. Supposed to have come from N.W. about thirty miles. (Reporter—Rev. A. O. Hood, parish minister.)

Inverarity.—Two grey granite boulders, from 2 to 5 tons each; destroyed some time ago. (Reporter—Rev. Patrick Stevenson.)

Kirkden.—Kaims, 440 paces long, running E. and W.; slope on each side from 22 to 30 paces; composed of gravel and sand. (Reporter—Rev. James Anderson.)

Kirriemuir.—A number of granite boulders in centre of parish, both grey and red. They lie chiefly between Stronehill and Craigleahill. Supposed to have come from Aberdeenshire.

Two kaims on Airlie Estate, one 100 yards long and 30 feet high, N.W. and S.E. on Upper Clintlaw Farm; other on Mid Scithie Farm, about 200 yards long and 30 feet high. At south base of Criechhill, a group of kaims, apparently

caused by confluence of great streams from N.E. and N.W. glens.

Old Red Sandstone rocks in S. of parish. Igneous rock towards N. at Craigieloch.

Slate rocks in Lintrathan and Kingoldrum. (Reporter—David Lindsay, Lintrathan, by Kirriemuir.)

Liff.—1. Mica schist boulder, $8 \times 6 \times 4$ feet, called “Paddock Stone.” Legend. Longer axis, N. and S. One report bears that it is whinstone, and may have come from Pitroddie Quarry, fourteen miles west. 2. Two boulders of mica schist, each 8 or 10 tons, called “Gows of Gowrie,” noticed by Thomas the Rhymer. 3. A Druidical circle of nine large stones—three mica schist, one granite, five whinstone. Central stone, longer axis N. and S. (Reporters —James Powrie, Esq., Reswallie, Forfar; P. Anthony Anton, St Regulus Cottage, St Andrews.)

Menmuir.—1. Granite boulder, $14 \times 9 \times 4$ feet, about 36 tons. Longer axis N. and W. Striated. Called the “Witch Stone.” 2. Granite boulder, $13 \times 9 \times 4$ feet, about 34 tons. There are many others smaller. (Reporter—Rev. Mark Anderson, Menmuir, Brechin.)

Montrose.—On Garvock and other hills, striæ on rocks point W. by N., *i.e.*, obliquely across the hills, which range W.S.W. and E.N.E.

On Sunnyside Hill, pieces of red shale found, derived from rocks *in situ* many miles to N.W. at a locality 100 feet lowest level.

Large blocks of gneiss, several tons in weight, occur, which must have come from Grampians, many miles farther to west. (James Howden, “Edin. Geol. Soc. Trans.” vol. i. p. 140.)

Rescobie.—Mica slate boulder, $13 \times 7 \times 7$ feet, near top of Pitscandly Hill, lying on drift. Rocks *in situ* Old Red Sandstone. Sir Charles Lyell says it came from Creigh Hill, about seventeen miles to W.N.W. Longer axis N. by E. 550 feet above sea. Valley of Strathmore lies between boulder and parent rock, and there are several hills also between boulder and parent rock, higher than boulder. Many smaller boulders of old rocks on same hill. (Reporter—James Powrie, Esq., Reswallie, Forfar).

St Vigean.—Gneiss boulder, now destroyed. Supposed to have come from mountains situated to N.W. If so, it had to cross valleys and ridges of hills. Kaims in parish full of granite and gneiss boulders. (Reporter—Rev. William Duke, minister.)

HEBRIDES.

Barvas.—On Estate of Sir James Matheson, a monolith, called *Clach an Trendach*, or "Gathering Stone." Height above ground, 18 feet 9 inches, and girth 16 feet. (Reporter—Rev. James Strachan.)

Harris.—A large boulder on a tidal island, broken into two fragments, 100 feet apart. (Reporter—Alex. Carmichael.)

North Uist.—On a small island called Câneum, north of Lochmaddy Bay, there are two boulders of Laurentian gneiss, which, though 100 feet apart, are evidently the two fragments of one block. The rocks *in situ* are also gneiss; but there is no hill or cliff near, from which the block could have fallen or come. One boulder weighs about 15, the other about 50 tons. They are both on the sea-beach, with a ridge or isthmus of rock between them. The boulders have each a side—in the one concave, and in the other convex—which face one another, and correspond exactly in shape and size. The edges of these two sides (*viz.*, the convex and concave) are sharp, whereas the other sides in both boulders are rounded, suggesting that the original block had undergone much weathering or other wearing action before being fractured. The larger boulder rests fantastically and insecurely on two smaller blocks. Reporter thinks the boulder brought by ice, and that it fell from a height, and was split by the fall.

In Long Island the hills even to the summits are covered with blocks and boulders. As a rule the edges of these are sharp, whereas the native rock, whether low down or high up, is glaciated, grooved, and striated to a very remarkable degree. The best places to see these marks are where drift, covering them, has been recently removed. They are obliterated in the rocks, which have been much weathered. (Reporter—Alex. Carmichael, Esq., South Uist, by Lochmaddy.)

The Lewis.—(Q. S. Parish of Bernera. On farm of Rhisgarry, be

*Carmichael instructed by Froude & Fine
& by J. S. Campbell*

longing to Lord Dunmore.) Gneiss boulder, $8\frac{1}{2} \times 7 \times 3$ feet. Longer axis N. and S. 30 feet above sea. Striated N. and S. Striæ from 2 to 4 feet long. Same rock as those *in situ*. Called "Craig nan Ramh." (Reporter—Rev. Hugh Macdonald, Manse, Bernera.)

The Lewis (Stornoway, Tolsta).—A rocking stone of gneiss $12 \times 5 \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ feet. Longer axis N.W. and S.E. About 200 feet above sea. Rocks *in situ* also gneiss. There are boulders of trap, apparently brought from eastward, where there are trap dykes. At a corner of a rocky hill near Tolsta, there are huge pieces of rock lying, suggesting idea of having been broken off by an iceberg. On Park Farm, beside a loch, there is a solitary boulder. Near Stornoway Tile Works, a boulder of Cambrian rock, supposed to have come from mainland to eastward. (Reporter—Mr Peter Liddell, Gregs, by Stornoway.)

Stornoway.—Several boulders occur near Garabast, of a rock similar to that which exists at Gairloch, on mainland to east (about 35 miles across the sea). There is also a large standing stone at Paible. (Reporter—Henry Cannter, Esq., Stornoway.)

In Forest of Harris, and between Fincastle and Glen Ulledale, there are many evidences of (supposed) ice action, viz., rocks smoothed and striated, and boulders lying in lines. (Reporter—Capt. Thomas, R.N.)

Report by Mr Campbell of Islay.

The well-known author of "Frost and Fire," who has studied the subject of the transport of boulders, not only in Scotland, but in many foreign lands on both sides of the Atlantic, has sent to the Committee a report, from which the following extracts are made:—

"I find in Scotland, upon ridges which separate rivers, marks of glaciation upon a large scale. These enable me to say, with tolerable certainty, that the ice which grooved rocks in the Outer Hebrides, at low levels, near sounds, moved from the ocean in the direction which tides now follow in the straits beside which the striæ are found.

"The conclusion at which I have arrived, by the examination of all these phenomena, boulders included, is, that a system of glaciations prevailed in Scotland, which can be ex-

George Hotel

Perth

~~Parlin House~~
~~Berwick-on-Tweed~~

13 July 1872

Dear Mr Campbell

I send by this
post to you another Proof of
the Boulder Report, containing
in the appendix, some references
to the additional information
wh^{ch} you sent to me. There
was a Meeting of the Committee
last week, when I produced the
paper wh^{ch} you had sent. We
thought, that we could not at
present print yr communica-
tion in full, but deal with it
as we had dealt with the Reports
from other persons who com-
municated with the Committee

tolerable certainty, that the ice which cov-

Hebrides at low levels, near sounds, moved from the ocean in
the direction which tides now follow in the straits, beside
which the striæ are found. For example, the grooves upon the
flat at Iochdar, at the north end of South Uist, aim directly
at the Cuchullin Hills in Skye. At the Mull of Ceantyre, at a

viz to take out merely the essen-
tial facts, indicating the position
of particular Boulders -

I will be obliged by your
glancing at the extracts given
and pointing out any corrections
wh- you would wish made

My address till Thursday next
will be Bismarck Hotel, Dundee,
after which we go to Aberdeen
- viz Imperial Hotel there

Believe me

Dear Mr Campbell

Yours very truly

Geo Mitchell

J. F. Campbell Esq
of Glasgow

... boulders, at low levels, near sounds, moved from
the ocean in the direction which tides now follow in the straits
beside which the striæ are found.

"The conclusion at which I have arrived, by the examina-
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system of glaciations prevailed in Scotland, which can be ex-

plained by the system now existing in Greenland. There, a vast system of Continental ice, as great in area as all India, radiates seawards, and launches icebergs, which move about in tides and currents. This system certainly existed in Scotland previous to the smaller system.

“Following any glen in Scotland, say Glenfyne, the smaller system of glaciation follows the course of the river (as in Switzerland), and the course of the tides in the sea loch (as glaciers do in Greenland); and, furthermore, often overruns low watersheds, and runs out to sea in some direct line. The striæ which mark the run of ice from the head of Glenfyne to Lochgilphead, run over a col and down Loch Killisport. They run past Tarbert, down both sides of Ceantyre and Arran, and out to sea. At Ormsary, by the roadside, and on the sea-beach, is a train of large boulders to which the usual legends are attached. One was thrown from Knapdale at a giant who was eating a cow on the other side of the loch. One of these boulders close to Ormsary House, at a small roadside cottage, is the biggest I have seen in Scotland. I did not try to ascertain whence it came. I think it was pushed a short distance only. But the striæ and trains of blocks show that it moved from N.E. to S.W. along the general line of hollows in the Western Highlands.

“On the outer islands in Scotland are marks equivalent to those so conspicuous on shore. In the Long Island, from Barra Head to the Butt of Lewis, the whole country glaciated, and the boulders everywhere perched upon the hills. Where surface newly exposed, the striations and smooth polishing so perfect and fresh, that marks can be copied as *brasses* are copied in churches by antiquaries. I showed to you samples taken last year in Barra and Uist. I have a large series taken wherever I have wandered. These enable me to say, with tolerable certainty, that the ice which grooved rocks in Outer Hebrides at low levels, near sounds, moved from the ocean in the direction which tides now follow in the straits, beside which the striæ are found. For example, the grooves upon the flat at Iochdar, at the north end of South Uist, aim directly at the Cuchullin Hills in Skye. At the Mull of Ceantyre, at a

great height above the sea, grooves aim at Rhinns of Islay parallel to the run of the tides. And so it is at a great many other places all round the coast."

In a letter from the same gentleman to Mr Carmichael, of South Uist, dated 29th March 1872, the following passages occur:—

"Glacial striæ occur upon fixed rocks in Tiree, Minglay, Barra, South and North Uist. They correspond with a direction from the N.W., or thereabouts.

"The striæ abound, and are especially fresh in the low levels, and opposite to hollows in hills, which would be under water, and traversed by tides, if those levels were now to sink a few hundred feet. The hills, so far as I have examined them, are ice-worn to the very top. Transported blocks are scattered all over these islands. In some places regular boulder-clay is left in patches. Under the clay, the rocks are smooth as polished marble. The boulders, so far as I have been able to ascertain, are of the same rock as the rock of the islands named. Boulders in Tiree, for example, may have come from Uist or Barra. They are perched upon the highest hill-top in Tiree.

"I was unable to find any sample of the rocks of Skye in Uist or in Tiree."

INVERNESS.

Kilmallie.—Boulder, fully 2000 feet above sea, on summit of a hill, 12 × 10 feet. Another still larger among the mountains between Loch Shiel and Loch Arkaig. Also boulder drifts and moraines in numbers. (Reporter—Rev. Archibald Clerk, Kilmallie Manse.)

Kilmallie (near Ardgour).—Quartz and mica boulders, nearly round, and remarkable on bare hill side. Different from adjacent rocks. 110 feet above sea. Same kind does not occur nearer than Glenfinnan, situated fifteen miles to N.W. by W. (Reporter—C. Livingston, parochial schoolmaster.)

Kilmornaig (Glengarry, N.W. of Fort William), Estate of Edward Ellice, M.P.—Boulder on Monerrigie Farm, near Lochgarry, about 16½ feet long at base, and 23 feet at top, and about 9 feet high. Round at top. Quartzite rock. No rock *in situ* near.

Longer axis N. and S. Several boulders on Leek Farm, near Loch Luddie, considerably larger. Some of boulders examined by Mr Jolly, school inspector, Inverness, and found by him to be striated. On Faicheam Ard Farm boulders very peculiar, being entirely different from all rocks in neighbourhood. Have been objects of curiosity to many geologists. The boulders generally arranged in groups, except at Faicheam Ard, where piled on one another. They rest on gravel. At Leek, near Iron Suspension Bridge, rocks *in situ* well striated.

There are "kaims" in another part of parish. At mouth of Glengarry a delta of fine gravel. In Lochaber also, along banks of Spean and Lochy. (Reporter—Parochial Schoolmaster.)

Kiltarlity (on Lord Lovat's lands).—A group of boulders called whinstones. Rock of same kind "a little southwards." Dimensions of two largest are (1.) 15 feet long, 9 feet high, 10 feet broad; (2.) 8 feet long, $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, 13 feet broad. Longer axis of both E. & W. Angular in shape. Several natural ruts on both 4 or 5 feet long, running N.W. About 300 feet above sea. (Schoolmaster's schedule, but omitted to be signed.)

Kingairloch (near Fort William).—Boulder, $5 \times 5 \times 4$ feet, about 5 tons; 8 feet above sea. Different from adjacent rocks. (Reporter—D. Cameron, teacher.)

Kingussie.—Boulder of a slaty rock, $15\frac{1}{2} \times 12 \times 9$, about 120 tons. Longer axis, E. & W. Called "Fingal's Putting Stone." About 900 feet above sea. Several other large boulders near Laggan Free Church. (Reporter—Cluny M'Pherson, Cluny Castle, Kingussie.)

Lochaber.—Near summit of Craig Dhu, between Glens Spean and Roy, a black sienite boulder, $14 \times 8 \times 4$ feet. On same hill lower down, boulders of red granite and felspar. (Observed by Professor Nicol and Mr Jamieson of Ellon. Mr Jamieson states that parent rock is in Glen Spean, to S.E. of Craig Dhu, and at a level far below boulders.) ("Lond. Geol. Soc. Journal," Aug. 1862 and Aug. 1863.)

On second Glenroy shelf, near the "Gap," a boulder of sienite, $8 \times 7 \times 4$ feet. (Reporter—Professor Nicol.)

Morvern (near Fort William).—Grey granite boulder, called “Clach na’m Buachaillean.” Length—North side, 17 yards; south side, $7\frac{1}{2}$ yards; 17 yards “round about;” 13 yards “round top from ground to ground;” $11\frac{1}{2}$ yards “across middle from ground to ground.” A large boulder to east of above on a hill about 2640 yards distant, and “peculiarly laid upon other smaller stones.” (Schoolmaster’s schedule, but omitted to be signed.)

KINCARDINE.

Banchory.—On property of John Michell, Esq. of Glessel, not far from Glessel Railway Station, a boulder called the “Bishop’s Stone;” circumference 44 feet, height above ground 8 feet, estimated to weigh 70 tons; bluish granite, differing from adjoining granite rocks. An ancient stone circle of boulders about 200 yards distant. (Reporter—Sir James Burnett of Crathes.)

The hill of Farre, situated two miles to north, forms an elongated range, running E. and W. Rocks on it glaciated, the striæ running about E. and W., *i.e.*, nearly coincident with valley of Dee. (Reporter—Thos. F. Jameson, Ellon.)

Fettercairn.—No boulder now left in parish, of any size. Long banks of gravel and sand occur, running parallel to one another. (Reporter—A. C. Cameron, parish schoolmaster.)

Maryculter.—Boulder, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 6 \times 6$ feet, about 14 tons. Longer axis N. and S. Rock of boulder considered same as rock situated to eastward. (Reporter—David Durward.)

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Galloway.—A great accumulation of blocks at head of Loch Valley at Loch Narroch. Among these are blocks of the peculiar graphic granite of Loch Enoch to the north, so that these blocks must have been carried from Loch Enoch southwards into the basin of Loch Neldricken, on to the spur of Craginaw between it and Loch Valley, and still onwards right over Craiglee and its deep scooped lake basins into Glen Trool. Craiglee is remarkable for the number of perched blocks, some of immense size, scattered over its ridges and highest peaks.

The many boulders along its ridgy crest give the appearance of an old broken-toothed saw.

Throughout the whole region travelled blocks and boulders occur, even to the summit of the Merrick, the highest peak south of the Grampians (2764 feet). One set of perched blocks is interesting, viz., poised blocks, known as Rocking Stones. Such blocks are natural, and have been placed by no human hands. Their exquisite balance is the result of the weathering of the block and of the rock below, caused by wind and storm.

There are well-marked striated rock surfaces more than 1600 feet above the sea-level.

Various moraines described, as stretching across valleys like ramparts, and forming dams to existing lakes. (William Jolly in "Edin. Geol. Soc. Trans." i. 155.)

Kells.—On Craigenbay Farm, a grey whinstone boulder, about 10 feet high and 17 feet long, with girth of 54 feet; 800 feet above sea. Longer axis N. and S. (Reporter—Robert Wallace, Auchenbrack, Tynron.)

Kirkbean.—Grey Granite boulder, $16 \times 9\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and girth about 38 feet, weighing about 80 tons. On sea shore at Arbigland. Longer axis, S.E. by E. Superficial groovings on top and S.W. front running N.N.W. Rests on freestone.

Criffel is about 3 miles to N.N.W. Granite rock there same as boulder. In all the glens, between sea shore and Criffel, numerous granite boulders generally in lines parallel with glens. Several kaims 40 to 50 feet high, run from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. (Reporter—Rev. James Fraser, Colvend Manse, by Dalbeattie).

Penninghame.—Granite boulders chiefly, supposed to have come from Minnigaff Hills, situated to N.E. Larger boulders on watersheds between Lochs Dee and Troul. (Reporters—Rev. William M'Lean, parish minister, and Rev. George Wilson, F.C. minister.)

Twynholm.—Granite boulder, supposed to have come from Gallo-way Hills, six or seven miles to westward. Several Druidical circles. (Reporter—Rev. John Milligan, Manse of Twynholm.)

LANARK.

Carluke.—Sandstone boulder, $20 \times 14 \times 14$ feet, about 290 tons. Called "Samson's Sling Stone." Doubtful if an erratic. (Reporter—D. R. R.)

Carnwath.—Whinstone boulders in large heaps. Supposed to have come from "Yelpin Craigs," three or four miles to north. Legend about Michael Scott and witches. (Reporter—Rev. Mr M'Lean.)

NAIRN.

Auldearn.—A great many boulders in this parish, of old rocks, and lying chiefly on Old Red Sandstone rocks. Chiefly conglomerates, and apparently derived from same kind of rock, characterised by pebbles in it of angular quartz or hornstone, liver coloured. These boulders all lie on sides of hills facing N.W., and they have generally one of their sides smooth which fronts the west. (Reporter—James Rennie, school-master.)

Ardclach.—At Raemore Burn, about 270 feet above sea, and 5 miles distant from sea, a conglomerate boulder with five sides, measuring altogether about 17 yards, and 3 yards above ground. Surrounded by hills of no great height; but lowest of these is to N.W. Fragments in conglomerate of quartz, hornstone, sienite, felspar, and other very hard rocks. The block is scarcely rounded at its edges and corners. (Reporter—Dr Gregor, Nairn.)

Cawdor.—On hill of Urquenay, the following boulders—1. At top of hill, about 690 feet above sea, conglomerate called "*Clach na Gillean*," or "*Young man's stone*," in girth about 54 feet; and height 10 feet. It rests on bare granite rock. 2. Half-way down hill, about 580 feet above sea, conglomerate called "*Clach na Cailleach*," or "*Old wife's stone*," in girth about 54 feet and height 15 feet. It seems to rest on drift gravel. 3. At foot of hill, and at east end of a kaim of gravel and sand, about 300 feet above sea, conglomerate called "*Clach an oglach*," or "*Boy's stone*," in girth about 69 feet, and average height about 9 feet.

Within policy woods of Cawdor Castle, on side of a burn

facing W.N.W., a conglomerate boulder about 250 feet above sea, in girth about 100 feet, and about 12 feet high.

The above four conglomerate boulders lie on granite rocks.

On Piper's Hill, where rocks *in situ* are Old Red Sandstone, a conglomerate boulder, on the side of a kaim facing N.W., weighing about 10 tons. Above sea about 300 feet.

No conglomerate rock of the same hard description in Nairnshire. On the granite rocks there lie boulders of sandstone, evidently transported from the north, where the Old Red Sandstone only exists, in the low country. (Reporters—W. Stables, Esq., commissioner; and his clerk, Mr John Grant, Cawdor Castle.)

Croy.—Conglomerate boulder, called "Tomreach," about 15 feet high, and girth of 27 yards. About 300 or 400 feet above sea. Sketch sent. (Reporter—Captain White, R.E.)

ORKNEY AND SHETLAND.

Bressay (Shetland).—A number of boulders consisting of a coarse white sandstone at various heights, viz., from 40 to 360 feet above sea. They lie on east side of island, and are conjectured to have come from Norway. Largest boulder, $10 \times 7 \times 4$ feet. Longer axis, N.W. Distinct groovings N.E. and S.W. (true); some of them 3 inches deep. (Reporter—Schoolmaster?)

Eday (Orkney).—Conglomerate boulder, $12 \times 7 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ feet, about 8 tons. Longer axis N.E. Situated near top of hill, about 250 feet above sea. Called "Giant Stone." Legend, as to it being thrown from island of Stronsay. No conglomerate in Eday, but there is in Stronsay. (Reporter—G Miller, schoolmaster, Cross and Burness.)

Frith and Stennis (Orkney).—Pebbles of white freestone on the hills. No white freestone rock in district; all red sandstone. (Reporter—Robert Scarth.)

Housay Island (Shetland).—On a cliff, 200 feet above sea, there are loose blocks resting on rounded knolls and polished rock, all polished before the burthen they now bear was thrown upon them. Some of the stones hang on ridges on the rounded sides of the hill.

Lerwick (Shetland).—At Lunna, a large block, broken into two, called the “Stones of Stoffus,” but uncertain whether erratics. (Reporters — James Irvine, teacher, and Robert Bell, proprietor.)

North Unst.—Here ice action plain. The serpentine rock has suffered severely. Ruts and striæ on it W.N.W. A hill 500 feet high, whole of upper part of which for 150 feet from top polished. Striated stones and blocks also plentiful. All over Unst the rocks show signs of abrasion, and in many places deposits of drift, inclosing stones of all sizes, some of which are rounded and striated.

In the *Island of Ueay*, large perched blocks, some many tons in weight, lie scattered about everywhere.

Thus then, at both ends, and in the middle of this group of islands, traces of glacial action have been found. (Peach, Brit. Assoc. Rep. 1864.)

Sunday (Orkney).—Gneiss boulder, $7 \times 2\frac{1}{2} \times 6$ feet, about 14 tons. Rocks of island are Old Red Sandstone. At Stromness, thirty miles to S.W., gneiss rocks occur *in situ*, also in Shetland Islands to north. Legend, that thrown from Shetland. (Reporter—G. Miller, schoolmaster, Cross and Burness.)

Sumburgh Head (Shetland).—Conglomerate boulder, lying over sandstone. (Reporter—William Lawrence, teacher.)

Walls (Orkney).—Lydian stone boulder, $9 \times 7 \times 6$ feet, about 28 tons. Large quantities of granite boulders scattered over hills; valleys show glacier and iceberg agency. (Reporter—James Russell, teacher.)

PEEBLES.

Kirkurd.—Three boulders of gneiss or trap (?) differing from adjacent rocks. (Reporter—James Palmey, schoolmaster, Kirkurd, Dolphinton.)

Newlands.—Remarkable kaims. (Reporter—E. Blacklock, schoolmaster.)

PERTH.

Aberfeldy (Tullypowrie village). 1. On north side of village, a considerable assemblage of schist boulders, the rocks *in situ* being clay slate. Most of boulders round in shape as if rolled.

One large boulder angular, $16 \times 14 \times 7$ feet, named "Clach Chinean," or "Stone of Doom." These boulders all rest on heaps of drift, much resembling a moraine. On the opposite or south side of the valley there are similar masses of drift, containing, however, stratified beds of sand and gravel.

2. About 2 miles north of Tullypowrie village, near the hills, two very large boulders of mica slate occur, about 1500 feet above sea. They rest apparently on a heap of drift. They are both cubical in form, and with sharp angles, as if never exposed to friction. One of them measured, and found to be 71 feet in girth and 17 feet high. The hills are more than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile distant. They must have been brought by ice of some kind, and let down without violence; for a fall from any height would have probably caused such large masses to break in pieces. The adjoining hills form a range to N. and W., reaching fully 700 feet above the boulders. But to N.W. (magn.) of the boulders, and within a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile a passage occurs through the hills, the level of which is only about 200 feet above the boulders. They might have come through this passage, carrying the boulders and stranding them where they now lie. These boulders, called "Clach M'had," or "Stones of the Fox."

3. Above Pitnacree House, a boulder of schist resembling hypersthene, $15 \times 11\frac{1}{2} \times 4$ feet above ground. It is called "Clack odhar," or "Dun Stone." No hills are near it, and it differs from all rocks *in situ* near it. (Reporter—Mr M'Naughton, merchant, Tullypowrie).

Arngask.—Rocking stone of mica slate, in Glenfarg ("New Statistical Account," vol. x. p. 888).

Auchterarder.—Boulder, $10 \times 6 \times 2$ feet, about 8 tons. Longer axis N.W. Called "Wallace's Putting Stone." (Reporter—Rev. Dr Nisbet, Edinburgh.)

Auchtergaven.—Granite boulder, $10 \times 8 \times 3$ feet, about 8 tons; 260 feet above sea. Longer axis N. and S. Called the "Deil's Stone." Has numerous and distinct "cup" markings on its sides. Supposed to have come from mountains situated thirty miles to north. Has been mutilated by slices cut off it for building, &c. Several standing stones and Druidical circles in

this parish, composed of boulders. (Reporter—William Duff, schoolmaster.)

Bendochy.—Formerly a Druidical circle of nine large stones, now destroyed, but name still preserved of “Nine Stones.” Long kaims of gravel or sand, which supposed may have caused river Tay to fall into sea at Montrose. (Reporter—Rev. Dr Barty.)

Callendar (Stirling).—Gneiss boulder on top of Bochastle Hill, called “Samson’s Putting Stone,” $14 \times 9 \times 9$ ft., resting on conglomerate rock. Longer axis N.E. Sketch sent, showing unstable position. Has come from westward. (Reporter—J. B. Hamilton, Leny.)

Collace.—Large stones said to be here. Query,—are they erratics? (Reporter—Peter Norae, schoolhouse, Collace.)

Comrie.—Four boulders of whinstone, and one of granite, $13 \times 9 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ feet, weighing about 20 tons. Longer axis N. and S. (Reporter—Wm. F. Swan.)

Crieff.—1. Conglomerate boulder, $16 \times 10 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ feet, about 64 tons, “Witches’ Stone.” 2. Conglomerate boulder, $19 \times 10 \times 5$ feet, about 70 tons. 3. Red granite boulder, $8\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 4$ feet, called “Cradle Stone.” (Reporter—Rev. Dr Nisbet, Edinburgh.)

At Abercainey, dark grey granite boulder, about 20 tons. (Reporter—C. Home Drummond Moray; and Rev. Thomas Hardy, parish minister.)

In Glen Turret, appearances of ancient moraines, described in letter by Mr Sang, C.E., Kirkcaldy.

Doune (near Kilbride).—Conglomerate boulder, about 900 tons. (Described in Estuary of Forth, by Mr Milne Home.)

Dron.—Whinstone rocking stone, 10×7 feet. Stands on bare rock (“New Statistical Account,” vol. x. 364).

Errol.—Several boulders, differing from adjacent rocks. Said to be indicated on Ordnance Survey maps.

Fortingall.—Gneiss boulder, $24 \times 16 \times 13$ feet, called “Clach an Salaine,” from people who brought trees out of Black Wood of Rannoch, resting them on it. Height above sea 2500 feet. Rocks *in situ* clay slate. Longer axis N.W. (Reporter—Mr Fletcher Menzies.)

Fowlis.—Two dark grey granite boulders, $10 \times 7 \times 4$ feet, and $12 \times 6 \times 4$ feet. Supposed to have been used as places of worship or sepulture, in very ancient times. (Reporter—Rev. Thomas Hardy.)

Killiecrankie (Tennandry Parish).—Blue limestone boulder, $6 \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 4$ feet. Supposed to have come from "*Ben y Gloe*," a hill to N.N.E., across valley 500 feet deep; plan of district sent. Granite boulder, also mentioned; has come from North. (Reporter—Rev. Patrick Grant, Tennandry Manse.)

Kilspindie.—Seven granite boulders, from 5 to 6 tons weight. Five form a belt or row having N.W. direction. All differ from adjacent rocks. (Reporter—James M'Kerracher, schoolmaster, by Errol.)

Kirkmichael.—Rocking stone, $7 \times 5 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, about 3 tons, whinstone. (?) Several tall stones near it, called "*Clachan Sleuchdaidh*" (Stones of Worship).—("New Statistical Account," vol. x. p. 737.)

Logie Almond.—Whinstone boulder, 8 or 10 feet square, about 48 tons, called "*The Ker Stone*," about 600 feet above sea, on north bank of River Almond, opposite to Glenalmond College. Probably, as there is a great peat moss near, the name has reference to the moss, "*char*" being the Gaelic for peat.

There is another boulder called "*Cul na Cloich*," or *Stone Nook*. A stream forms a nook or angle with the drain or ridge on which the boulder stands. It is a conglomerate, and rests on Old Red Sandstone. Another conglomerate boulder occurs at S.E. corner of the farm of Risk. (Reporter—Rev. Patrick Macgregor, Logie Almond Manse.)

Methven (Auchtergavin Parish).—Whinstone boulder, about 10 feet high, oval shaped, standing on small end, called "*Sack Stone*." No rock of same kind near. 800 feet above sea. (Reporter—William Duff, schoolmaster.)

Monzie.—In Glen Almond, a large stone, 8 feet high, near side of river, nearly cubical, called *Clach-Ossian*, said to mark grave of that poet. ("New St. Acct." of parish, vol. x. 264.)

Pitlochrie.—1. On road to Straloch, mica slate boulder, called "*Gledstone*," about 1800 feet above sea. Lying on drift of gravel and stratified sand. Rocks adjoining clay slate.

About 8 tons weight. Legend, that this stone gave name to Gladstone family, an infant having been found at it by a shepherd, who took it home to his wife, who nursed it.

2. Near parish church of Straloch, a huge boulder of very coarse granite, called "*Clach m'hor*," or "*Big stone*," about 24 feet diameter, and about 20 feet high. Supposed to weigh about 800 tons. Adjoining rocks clay slate. Many other boulders of mica slate and quartzite beside it. Supposed to have come from north through a valley. (Reporter—Rev. Dr Robertson, Straloch.)

Rattray.—Mica schist boulder, $12 \times 6 \times 6$ feet, about 25 tons, called "*Glenballoch Stone*." Has cup and groove markings on south side. There are other boulders in Druidical circles. They have all come from hills to N. or N.W. (Reporter—Rev. Mr Herdman, Rattray.)

RENFREW.

Kilbarchan.—Porphyry boulder, $22 \times 17 \times 12$ feet, about 300 tons. Longer axis E. and W., called "*Clach a Druidh*" (Stone of Druid)? Legend. Boulder differs from adjacent rocks. Same rock seen in hills 2 or 3 miles to west and north. (Reporters, —Robert Graham, D.D.; and R. L. Jack (Geol. Survey).)

ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Alness.—In forest of Gildermoy, a very large granite boulder reported by Earl of Selkirk.

Applecross.—Three large boulders, one near shore at Rassel, called "*Clach Oiu*," weighing about 60 tons, other two about 30 tons, each called respectively "*Clach Mhoir*" and "*Clach Van*." Used as landmarks from the sea. Kaims at Ardbain and Ardrishach, extending each more than two miles along coast. (Reporter—William Ross, schoolhouse, Applecross.)

Ben Wyvis.—N.W. shoulder of, presents whole acres of rock, swept bare of soil, rounded and polished. Boulders of a peculiar veined granite have come from the Derry More (tract situated to west of Ben Wyvis), and been carried eastward to Moray Frith. These boulders found half-way up Ben Wyvis, also in valleys of Alness and Ault Grand. In Strathgarve some of

the blocks are as big as cottages. Their size lessens towards E. No boulder of same kind seen on West Coast. (Nicol "Geol. of N. of Scot.," p. 70.)

Carnock.—Five large boulders, each weighing about 20 tons. Each has a Gaelic name. One, a boundary stone. (Reporter—James Watson, schoolhouse, Strathconon, Beauly.)

Edderton.—Granite boulder, $23 \times 19 \times 12$ feet, weighs about 290 tons. Longer axis N.E. Two others, not quite so large. All differing from adjacent rocks. (Reporter—Rev. Ewen M'Ewen, parish minister.)

Rev. Mr Joass states that this word is derived from "*Garbh*"—"rough," the Gaelic for "*Hill of the Pitcher*," on account of shape, its sides being almost vertical. (Rev. Mr Joass.)

Rev. Mr Joass of Golspie states, that the boulders here referred to are on a shelf or terrace about 900 feet above sea, and that their parent rock is at Carn na Cuinnaig about 12 miles to N.W.

He adds, that the boulders specified, as in the parishes of Tain and Tarbat, are probably from same source. The granite is peculiar. (See Tain and Tarbat farther on.)

Fannich Mountains.—Boulder of grey gneiss, with garnets. $30 \times 10 \times 5$ feet, described in letter to Convener by J. F. Campbell of Islay; 2700 feet above sea; angular. Situated on watershed. Called "*Clach mhor na Biachdoil*." A train of large boulders to be seen in a valley not far off. Rocks also smoothed and striated. Lines of striation parallel with valleys.

Foddarty.—Boulder, $14 \times 8 \times 5$ feet, about 40 tons. About 6 feet above sea; shape, angular; Druidical. Another with inscription illegible. Supposed to commemorate a battle between two clans. (Reporter, parish schoolmaster.)

Lochalsh.—Gneiss boulder, $9 \times 7 \times 8$ feet; longer axis E. and W.. striated. Boulder differs from adjacent rocks. Same rock said to be at Glenelg, 5 or 6 miles to south.

Boulder called after Fingal. Quartz, $7\frac{1}{2} \times 7 \times 5$ feet. Longer axis, N.W.; striated. At Loch Carron, said to be a kaim or diluvial bank. (Reporter—Duncan Sinclair, parish school, Lochalsh.)

Lochgair.—One granite boulder, $28 \times 17 \times 16$ feet, about 560 tons; striated. Two granite boulders, $23 \times 10\frac{1}{2} \times 7$ feet, about 120 tons. One of these said to be on top of a hill, and called "Sandel Stone." Legend. There are three other boulders of smaller size. Rocks *in situ* are granite. (Reporter—John MacKillop, schoolmaster.)

Shieldag (Loch Carron).—Granite boulder, $16 \times 10 \times 10$ feet, about 120 tons. Longer axis E. and W. There is another large boulder. Both said to be in precarious positions. (Reporter—Rev. Alex. C. McIntyre, Shieldag Manse, Dingwall.)

Tain.—Granite boulder, $18 \times 12 \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ feet, about 60 tons. Plan and section of boulder given. Rocks of district are Old Red Sandstone. South shore of Dornoch Frith said to be thickly strewn with granite blocks. whilst none on north shore. (Reporter—Robert Gordon.)

Tarbat.—Seven or eight large boulders of gneiss and granite. Places, dimensions, and names specified, with sketches of boulders. Also, kaims of clay running E. and W. in parallel lines. One a mile long. (Reporter—Rev. George Campbell, parish minister.)

West Coast.—Vestiges of moraines, lateral and terminal, from glacier generated in valley occupied by Loch Fuir, N. of Loch Maree. (Nicol "Geol. Soc. Jour.," xiv. p. 170.)

ROXBURGH.

Eckford.—Two kaims, each from 100 to 300 yards long, from 50 to 60 feet high. (Reporter—Parish schoolmaster.)

Jedburgh.—Porphyry boulder, supposed to have come from Dunion Hill, which is 2 miles to west. Formerly granite boulder on Dunion. Supposed to have come from Galloway or Dumfries; now destroyed. A whinstone boulder, above Bedrule Bridge. (Reporters—Rev. Archibald Craig and Rev. Dr Ritchie.)

Melrose.—Greywacke boulder, round shaped, called "Samson's Putting Stone." (Reporter—Parish schoolmaster.)

STIRLING.

Alloa.—Basaltic boulder, $13 \times 11\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ feet. Longer axis N. and S. Called "Hair Stane." About 70 feet above sea. (Reporter—Parish minister.)

Campsie.—Rocks glaciated. Striations W.S.W. & W.N.W. (Reporter—Rev. Thomas Monro, D.D.)

Fintray.—Boulders in a group, called "Gowk Stones." Have apparently come down valley. (Reporter—R. L. Jack (Geol. Survey).)

Kilsyth.—Mica Slate boulder, $7 \times 5 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, about 6 tons. 1250 feet above sea. Parent rock supposed to be 15 miles to north. (Reporter—R. L. Jack (Geol. Survey).)

Ochils.—On watersheds of, at about 2000 feet, boulder of mica schist full of garnets, apparently from Grampians to N.W. (Jamieson, "Geol. Soc. Jour.," xxii. p. 166.)

St Ninians.—Boulder about 200 tons, at height of 1250 feet above sea. (Reporter—R. L. Jack (Geol. Survey).)

Strathblane.—Conglomerate boulder, $8 \times 4 \times 3$ feet, about 7 tons. Longer axis W. 20° N. 1803 feet above sea. Parent rock supposed to be to N.W. (Reporter—R. L. Jack (Geol. Survey).)

SUTHERLAND.

Assynt.—Two large boulders, one at Unapool, the other at Stronchrubie, called "Clach na Putain" (Stone of the Button). (Reporter—Angus M'Ewen, parochial schoolmaster.)

Clyne.—Remarkable kaims, apparently moraines (lateral and terminal) in valley of Brora. Also, rocks striated at Brora quarry. Striæ run N.W. (Reporter—M. Myron.)

Golspie.—Old Red Sandstone boulder, $16 \times 10 \times 4$ feet, lying on Oolite rocks. Longer axis, N.N.W.; sub-angular. Sketch sent. About 248 feet above sea. Three smaller boulders of Old Red Sandstone lie about 100 yards to S.E. of the above. The Old Red Sandstone formation is situated to north and west, about 3 miles from boulder. Terminal and lateral moraines occur in Brora valley, broken up by diluvial action into ridges and hummocks. (Reporter—Rev. James Joass, minister of Golspie.)

On the whole N.W. coast from Cape Wrath southwards, numerous "Perched" boulders occur on summits and sides of hills, in the most exposed positions. Especially numerous around Loch Maree. (Nicol "Geol. Soc. Journal," xiii. pp. 29, 39.)

Boulders of large size on top of Applecross Hills. Rocks below, striated. Direction of striæ S. 20° W. (true.) (Reporter—Nicol of Aberdeen.)

WIGTOWNSHIRE.

Glasserton.—Granite boulder, $9 \times 6 \times 6$ feet, about 24 tons. Longer axis N.E. Two small boulders to east of above, and in a line with it. These boulders supposed to have come from mountains to N.E., across arm of sea. Kaims in parish, full of granite pebbles. (Reporter—Archibald Stewart.)

10 York Place June 20
Edinburgh 82

Dear Mr Campbell

I have much pleasure
in asking for acceptance of the 3 last
Reports on Scotch Boulders; - a sub-
ject which is better known to you
than to any one else.

The 6th Report on p 13 mentions

Your name

The 8th Report is yet only in
proof for correction -

Yours very truly

David Milne Home

J. F. Campbell Esq

President of the Meteorological
Society Scotland
Convenor of the British Committee
of the Scotch Royal Society.

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